THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (d) A scheme is being drawn up for "Rejuvenation of Culturally Significant Cities". Draft guidelines for the proposed scheme have been prepared and the detailed provisions of the Scheme are under discussion with the Planning Commission before it is given a final shape. The basic objective of this scheme is to ensure that culturally significant cities become vibrant centres not only of civic life but also of economic, social and cultural advancement. The cities to be covered by the scheme would be decided in consultation with the concerned State Governments but it is proposed as a general preposition to select at least one culturally significant town in each small State / Union Territory and two in the large States. The city / cities to be covered by the scheme would be formally announced only after the scheme is given final shape. The details of financing the proposed scheme of the Rejuvenation of culturally Significant Cities and the amount to be spent on each city would be decided in consultation with the Planning Commission.

Extension of NCR

1119. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering extending the area of National Capital Region;

(b) what action Government propose to make it helpful in decongesting Delhi; and

(c) whether Government would consider developing satellite towns in true sense?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The matter with respect to extension of the National Capital Region (NCR) had been considered by the NCR Planning Board in its 25th meeting held on 12.7.2000. Wherein the proposals sent by the States of Rajasthan and UP for inclusion of some of the areas in the NCR were considered. No concensus could be arrived at. It was decided that the matter would be considered by a High Level Group which has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation Minister as one of the inputs in preparation of Regional Plan 2021.

(b) and (c) The NCR Planning Board was constituted in 1985 with the twin objective of reducing the population by decongesting NCT Delhi and achieving a balanced and harmonised development of the region covering an area of 30242 sq.km. The NCR has been trying to achieve this objective by way of promoting infrastructural development and growth of the NCR areas, development of counter magnet towns and facilitation for housing and other important social sector and infrastructural projects. The NCR has sanctioned 138 projects till December 2000 to the tune of Rs. 3814.54 crores of which 57 schemes have been completed. The Ministry has also facilitated relocation of non conforming industries from Delhi to the NCR areas by way of organising interface, opening of facilitation counters of the NCR States in Delhi and having close coordination with these States for such purpose.

As far as the concept of satellite towns is concerned, this was also addressed in the Master Plan for Delhi 1962 which visualised the development of six ring towns of Loni and Ghaziabad in UP, Faridabad, Ballabgarh and Gurgaon in Haryana and Narela in NCT Delhi. A core group has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation Minister to prioritise the development of NCR and prepare a comprehensive plan for the same.

Earthquake proof Delhi Metro Rail Structures

1120. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per a press report, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Chairman assured that all metro structures in the capital were being built strong enough to endure maximum stress and strain in case of an earthquake; and

(b) if so, the plans to ensure the same precaution for other structures, already built up of under construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation has informed that all structures of Delhi Metro Rail Project has been/are being designed in accordance with the criteria for 'Earthquake Resistant Design of Structures' laid down in the relevant Indian Standard Codes. Delhi falls in Zone IV, which is a moderately high seismic Zone for which basic horizontal seismic co-efficient is 0.05 as per IS—1893—1984. The seismic co-efficient adopted for design of Delhi Metro Structures is 0.07 which is only slightly